MONTEREY NEWS

DECEMBER 1990

TOWN NEWS

The new septic system for the Monterey Town Hall/Grange is now in place. The plans for the system were designed by Soil Tech of Great Barrington and submitted to Selectman Bill Bohn, who then solicited bids by telephone. The two bids received were from Carson Construction, Inc., of Hartsville and Mt. Everett Landscaping of Great Barrington. Mt. Everett Landscaping was the low bidder at $5,371.71, and it was moved by Selectman Williams and unanimously voted to accept the bid of Mt. Everett Landscaping.

The Board of Selectmen met with Police Chief Doug Lyman and Fire Chief Ray Tryon to discuss a proposed bylaw regulating the use of automatic alarm systems by requiring individuals to obtain annual permits for the systems. The bylaw would require the owners of these alarm systems to file information with the Monterey Police including the name, address and telephone number of an authorized representative who will be able to deactivate the alarm system if necessary. In addition, the bylaw calls for fining owners in the case of false alarms, whether caused by an alarm malfunction or alarm activation by legal occupants. The bylaw was drafted to address the large number of false alarms the Fire Company and Police Department have responded to. The bylaw proposal has been forwarded to Town Counsel for review.

In other Police Department news, the Selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Harry W. McMahon of Sheffield as a part-time police officer. Mr. McMahon has served in the Great Barrington Police Department and has considerable training and experience in various aspects of police work.

The Konkapot River clean-up project remains at a virtual standstill since the Clean Rivers and Waterways crew from the Berkshire County Commissioners was served with a cease and desist order from the Monterey Conservation Commission. The Highway Department received permission from the Conservation Commission to remove a log from the river that had been cut by the crew before the order was issued. The Selectmen made the special request due to concern for the safety of homes downriver in the Hartsville area.

The Board of Selectmen announced that the green deposit that has appeared in Lake Garfield has been identified as a natural algae bloom by William Enser of Berkshire Enviro-Labs. The other puzzling green substance noticed around the catch basins and the new guardrails is a non-toxic fertilizer used by the DeLuca Fence Company.

On November 13, a hearing was held to obtain public input prior to establishing the percentage of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of property. Michael Banner of the Board of Asssessors was present to explain the current classifications and to recommend that the factor of 1 be retained for all five classifications so that residential, commercial, industrial, open-space and personal property classes all pay the same rate based on full evaluation. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the recommendation.

A business permit was issued to Arthur and Alice Somers of Rock Ridge on Tyringham Road to allow for the use of their home for weddings, parties and conferences. The following stipulations are attached to the permit: 1) a portable toilet must be used when there are more than 100 people in attendance; 2) a 9:00 P.M. curfew is to be observed for all activities; 3) caterers must obtain a separate permit from the Board of Selectmen.

The following building permit applications were approved: to Georgiana O'Connell for repairs to a studio on her Curtiss Road property, in care of the builder Eric Pedersen (Mrs. O'Connell absented herself from the meeting during the the Board's consideration of her permit application); to Herbert and Carol Heiman, of Larchmont, N.Y., for the construction of a small basement to enclose the water system at their Lake Garfield house, in care of Tom Gillis, the builder; to William E. Mielke, Sr., of Beverly Hills, Florida, for the construction of a pole barn at his Main Road property, submitted by Mike Mielke; to Stanley and Edith Ross of New York, N.Y., for the construction of a porch addition at their Main Road property, submitted by John Dinan, the contractor; to Harry Vickerman of Monterey for the construction of a new garage at his Route 23 property, submitted by Stephen Reddy, the contractor; to Nathan and Ruth Ron of Riverdale, N.Y., for the construction of a two-story deck addition at their Lake Garfield home, submitted by Robert Brawn; to Kenneth Greenfield of Monterey for a bedroom additon to his Hupi Road house, submitted by Terry Silkey, the builder.

— Maggie Leonard

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

The Monterey Planning Board held its regular meeting on November 8, with Bob Thieriot, Elk Dempsey, Wayne Burkhart and Chairman Joe Baker present.

Architect Robert McMahon dropped off a letter to the Planning Board contesting the denial of a building permit to Mr. Stephen Kwass for alterations to his Point Road, Lake Garfield, house. It was the finding of the Planning Board that the plan is inconsistent with Monterey's zoning bylaws, but Mr. McMahon contends that as long as the non-conforming nature of the structure is not increased, it is permitted use under Massachusetts General Law. The Selectmen are consulting with Town Counsel on the matter.

As requested by the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board discussed the proliferation of signs around Monterey, and particularly those in the public right-of-way. It was ascertained that the current limit of one sign per person or business is largely unenforced. Elk Dempsey pointed out that some states have standard directional signs for local businesses and crafts people. Bob Thieriot stated that there should be a distinction made between directional signs and promotional signs. The Board consulted the current sign bylaw and concurred that size and height are important criteria when considering a new sign bylaw. In addition, the Board outlined several categories of signs that would be under scrutiny, including real estate signs, political signs, temporary signs displayed by local businesses while working on the premises, home names, business signs, etc. Bob Thieriot is working on a draft of preliminary ideas for a possible sign bylaw. Barbara Swann has completed a definitive draft of the current bylaws, and the Planning Board is having it printed as soon as possible. There should be, in the near future, a new bylaw available for Monterey citizens.

— Maggie Leonard

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CHURCH NEWS

As always, December is a month of activity in the Church. This year is no exception. You are invited to participate in a variety of events that will make the Advent/Christmas season a time of joy for you and your family.

AERIE ADVENT OPEN HOUSE: Come to the parsonage on the first Sunday of Advent (December 2) from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. to start the holiday season in a joyous way. We'll share food, song and fellowship in the spirit of Christmas. This year the Aerie family wants to express their gratitude to the Monterey community for all the love and support given to them and Rajee. Everyone is welcome—children, too!

GOOD NEWS GANG: What are you giving for Christmas? All Monterey children (kindergarten through eighth grade) are invited to gather in the church community room on the first three Wednesdays of December (3:30-5:00 p.m.). We'll have fun preparing to give away homemade Christmas cards, cookies and the sound of music. MaryKate Jordan and Kathy Whitten will supervise the creation of Christmas cards, Milly Walsh will head the baking crew, Priscilla Gulliver and her guitar will help us tune up our Christmas caroling voices. December 5 and 12 will be our activity dates, and on the 19 we'll bring our creations and voices to several places and share them with others.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLING: An old-fashioned time of serenading our Monterey neighbors. We'll meet at the church on Thursday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. and bring our Christmas cheer throughout the neighborhood. This is a great event for families young and old. Let's awaken Monterey with the sound of Christmas carols!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Our traditional celebration of carols, verses and candlelighting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Last year the sanctuary was packed. What a wonderful way to share in the celebration of Christmas with our community. Special music and the participation of our children will highlight the occasion.

— Cliff Aerie

FREE METAL RECYCLING

When the current large pile of metal goods has been collected from the Town's Disposal Area, there will no longer be a fee charged for the metal goods brought to the facility. This is made possible because the Town has signed a contract with Admet Recycling Company of Naugatuck, Connecticut, for the removal, hauling and recycling of the Town's light iron, white goods, copper and aluminum. Admet will reimburse the Town 10% of the value of the materials removed, based upon the daily market and Admet's dealer prices. So you can hold on to your metal goods for free disposal sometime in the future.

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Is but a shadow.
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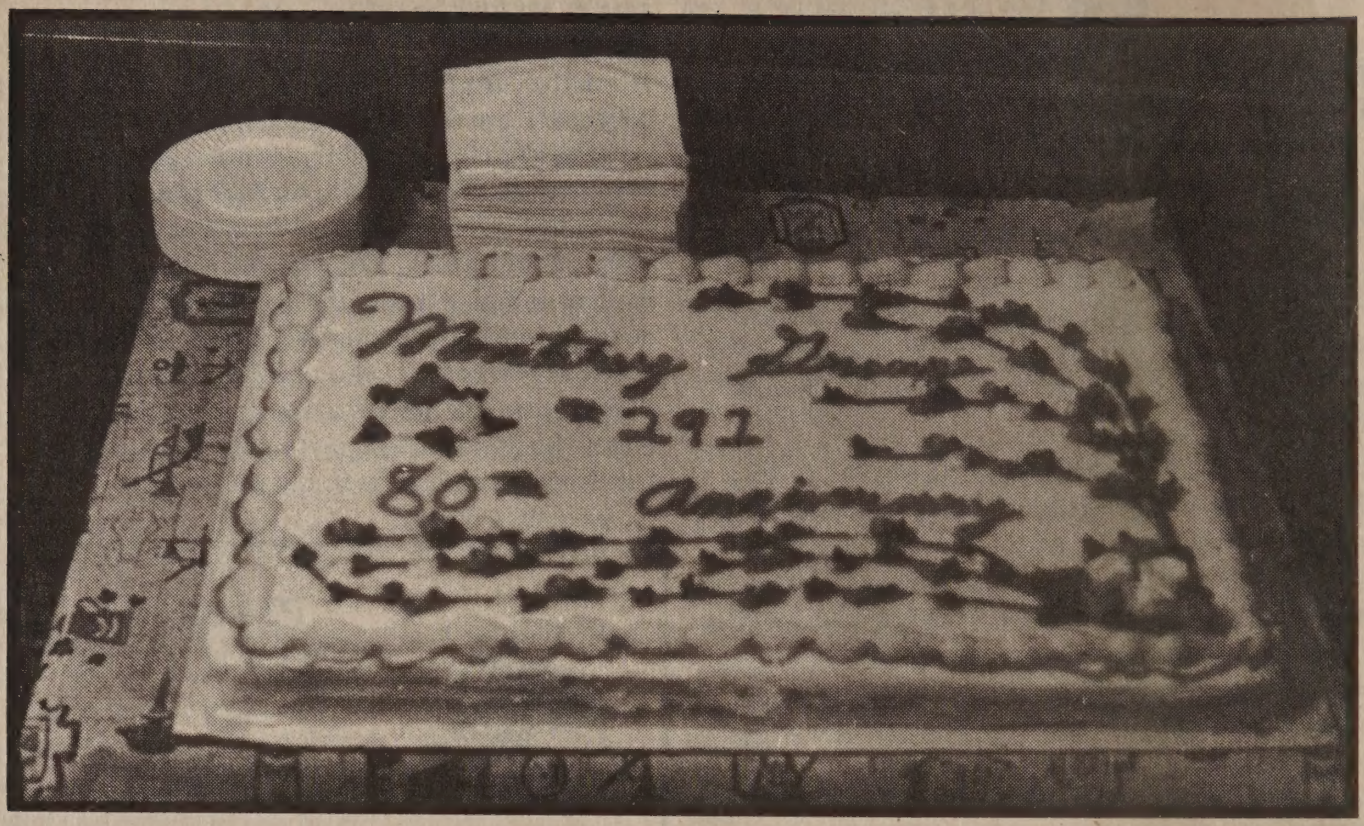
There is radiance and glory
In the darkness—
Could we but see it.
And to see it
We have only to look.
I beseech you to look.
— Fra Giovanni

COME SHARE THE SPIRIT!

The Monterey United Church of Christ
Sunday Worship Celebration 10:00 A.M.



ELEANOR KIMBERLEY

The cake served in honor of the Monterey Grange's 80th anniversary in October.

MONTEREY GRANGE NEWS

Monterey Grange #291 met on November 7. Worthy Lecturer gave an interesting report on the Massachusetts State Grange meeting in Leominster in October. Worthy Master Tolitha Butler presented many prizes to Eleanor Kimberley for entries in the photo contest—some have gone on to National Grange for judging. She also presented a first prize to Sisters Kimberley and Brown for the Grange Week display at the Monterey Post Office and several awards to Worthy Lecturer Mary Wallace for her work as Lecturer.

There were guests present from Stockbridge and Umpachene Granges. Pirate Bingo in charge of Richard Hardisty was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will be December 5, featuring preparing for Christmas.

— Mary Wallace, Lecturer

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP AT MT. EVERETT

The Guidance Department at Mt. Everett Regional School is sponsoring a Financial Aid Workshop on Monday, December 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the school library. In the event of inclement weather, the workshop will be on Wednesday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Ann Moore, Director of Financial Aid at Berkshire Community College, will discuss the financial aid process. The Financial Aid Form (FAF) will be distributed, and Ms. Moore will review how to complete it. There will be a question and answer period.

The workshop is open to all who would like to learn more about the financial aid process. While parents of seniors are particularly encouraged to attend, all are welcome.

Refreshments will be served.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

Thank you to the Calvary Christian Chapel and the Old Parish Church who helped make Thanksgiving more enjoyable for area families.

The playgroups are sponsoring a raffle, with the drawing to be held December 13 at the Great Barrington playgroup at St. James Church. Ten items will be raffled, including two Zapotec Indian hand-woven 100% wool pillows, an 8" melon basket by Wendy Jensen, *Kid's Kure for Kabin Fever*, necklace and earring set made from paper beads, Children's Health Program tote bag, wool skeins from South Berkshire sheep, and a Santa Claus decorated bear toy. Raffle tickets are available at the ten playgroups and the Children's Health Program.

The Christmas Party for playgroups and Parent to Parent families will be held December 13, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Great Barrington Playgroup at St. James Church. All are welcome.

The playgroups are collecting the UPC symbols from Price Chopper items. The Children's Health Program will receive 5¢ per label. The deadline is December 31. Labels can be dropped off at the Children's Health Program, 54 Castle Street.

During this time of gift giving, we may tend to become caught up in the commercialism of the season. The best gift to give is that of yourself, by helping someone or taking time to listen to a child or read a story. Best wishes for the holidays from the Children's Health Program staff. We are pleased to be part of the South Berkshire County scene.

— Claudette Callahan

BOARD OF ASSESSORS NEWS

You thought that the assessors worked exclusively for the Town? No. The Town pays us, but the state makes the laws and oversees everything we do. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue, known by us town hall types as The State, mandates that the Monterey Assessors inspect and value each property in the town every three years. We have to submit the findings to the State as a revaluation. The State then sends an inspector who says yes, no, or change it!

The old revaluation, scribbled by hand on "work cards" took all three years: by the time the revaluation was complete the first two years' information was usually growing whiskers. It was difficult, using the old, time-consuming methods, to have equality in the values.

This year there are lots of changes in the Assessors' office. Patriot Properties, Inc., the company hired by the Town to do this year's revaluation has completed the work in record time and has computerized all the property record cards. We are now proud participants in the late 20th century! The computer cards give us amazingly detailed information about your property, the dimensions, quality, condition, construction elements of all of the buildings, acreage and what time you have dinner every night.

If you find an error in your property values, please come in and check your record card. Changes will be possible, using abatement, within thirty days of the tax bills being mailed, and we are there to help you. The phone number is 528-6481.

— Michael Banner

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PARK COMMISSION NEWS

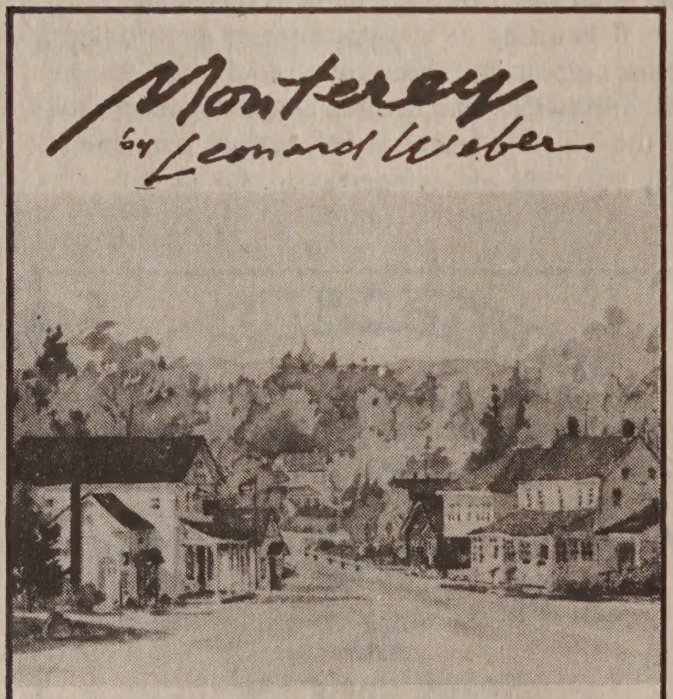
On Sunday, November 4, about fifteen of the local skaters and hockey players got together and put up the boards to the rink at the firehouse pavilion. Surely, Monterey can boast the finest community skating rink in the county. This year, we've added an enclosed area so that people can put on their skates in comfort out of the wind. Our ice-making crew has two years of experience behind them, and, with the latest improvements on our homemade zamboni (ice-making machine), should put out a surface that rivals real indoor rinks.

Skating hours are the same as last year and will be posted at the rink. Once again, hockey will be allowed only during designated hours, and only with foam or plastic pucks, no real ones (our boards are not strong enough).

Skating hours: Weekdays: All day and after school, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Weekends: Noon-9:00 p.m.

Hockey hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday nights at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday mornings until noon.

— Jim Thomas



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LAND TRUST NEWS

Open Land Saves Town Money

The idea persists that residential development increases net revenue to towns. Farms, because of the agricultural reduction in tax rates, are thought to cost the taxpayer money. As it turns out, the opposite is the case. The American Farmland Trust analyzes the fiscal impact of major land uses, using Cost of Community Services studies which show that homes cost a town more in services than they produce in taxes.

For example, a study in Dutchess County, New York, found that for every one residential tax dollar, $1.36 was required in services. But for every $1 from the farm sector, the town spent only 21 cents. Similarly, only 29 cents of each tax dollar went to the commercial/industrial sector.

One of the best ways to preserve open land is to buy it for limited development. This method can serve a family's financial needs while permanently forestalling inappropriate development. An example: The Dutchess Land Conservancy purchased and resold, with conservation easements, 127 hilltop acres of the Coon Farm. The Coon brothers have leased back the land, which they continue to farm. Everyone benefitted: the family received 17% more for their land than their asking price, and one of the most scenic hilltops in Dutchess County has been permanently protected.

Our year-end letter and membership renewal forms are out, and the memberships are coming in fast and furiously. Thank you all for rejoining. Those reading this column who are not as yet members of the Land Trust may join by sending $5 dues, and whatever further tax-deductible donation they may care to, to: MPLT, Box 504, Monterey, MA 01245.

We hope those of our far-flung membership and friends who cannot be in the Berkshires for the holidays will direct a quiet thought to the Berkshire Hills during that time. The Board of Directors joins me in wishing every one of you, wherever you may be, a very happy holiday season and a splendid new year.

— Joyce Scheffey

MONTEREY LIBRARY NOTES

Winter is with us again. Some traditional societies keep the time from Halloween to May Day as a period for gathering before the hearth to hear stories and storytellers. It is, after all, pretty dark for most of the time and there is not very much to be done out of doors. Coincidentally (or maybe not), at the Monterey Library we have our own way of gathering at the hearth to share stories.

We are having our traditional film series in January and early February on Saturday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the library basement. This year's films are:

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (January 19)
The Hound of the Baskervilles (January 26)
The Mouse That Roared (February 2)
Rebecca (February 9)

For a change, this year we are including selected short features with each film. The films are presented courtesy of the Western Massachusetts Regional Library System. Popcorn and cider are available; admission is free. The films are meant for everyone, so come and bring the whole family/friends/visitors/whatever.

— John Higgins

SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO MEET IN MONTEREY

The School Committee of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District will conduct its January meeting at the Monterey School in the newly renovated kindergarten on January 17, 1991, at 7:30 p.m. Citizens are invited to express their views on the 1991-92 school budget, the new school building project, or other items of concern. Regular School Committee business will follow.

Each month, the School Committee tries to meet in a different district town to gain citizen input. This will be an opportunity for Montereyans to see our one-room schoolhouse.

HALLOWEEN COMMITTEE REPORT

Congratulations to the winners of the 1990 Costume Contest:

Cutest: Baby sheep, Emily Shaw
Ugliest: Red devil, Chase Bragan
Prettiest: Lady in green, Sthea Mason
Scariest: Darth Vader, Eoin Higgins
Most original: St. Francis, Dinah Scutellaro
Best all around: Baby on horse, Kyle Hutson

Many thanks to Edith Wilson, Shirley Clute, Nancy Kalodner, Dean Amidon, Pat and Tom Andrus, Rudy and Kim Gero, Betsy and Dan Andrus and all the haunted helpers, Ray and Leigh Tryon, and any others whom we may have forgotten to mention. Thanks to the following for their contributions: Vincent Scutellaro (Happy Home Carpentry), Precision Autocraft, Monterey Grange, Phases Tree Co., Wild Geese Outfitters, Benchmark Realty, Lake Garfield Association, Mary Thorn, West Engineering, Richard Sheridan, Edith Wilson, Norma Champigny, Bob Thieriot, Dek Tillett, Ltd., Hebert Realty, Monterey General Store, Monterey Fire Company and the Ice Cream Store.

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ADULT CHILDREN ANONYMOUS

Adult Children Anonymous (ACA) is a self-help program which is based upon the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. It is non-profit and is open to all adults suffering from the confusion, anger and self-blame born of having been raised in addictive families (alcoholics, overeaters, compulsive gamblers, debtors, etc.) or generally dysfunctional families.

Adult children of such families who, as a result, experience their own compulsive behaviors, and whose relationships with others are often impaired, are welcome in ACA meetings. The goal is to heal and help through confronting pain and loss.

Meetings have been held since 1977 under various names in different parts of the country. As of January 1988, there were over 1,000 independent meetings in 43 states, five foreign countries and nine Canadian provinces.

A South County ACA meeting is held every Tuesday evening, from 7:30 to 9:00, in Great Barrington, at the offices of the United Way, 323 Main Street (corner of Main and Bridge Streets, below the Subway restaurant). For further information, please call Jack H. at 243-0762.

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COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

For the past several years, Indian Line Farm in Egremont has led the way in Community-Supported Agriculture, providing members with weekly deliveries of delicious garden-fresh, organic vegetables. The food was better than that which is available at the supermarket, more convenient, and less expensive. A further benefit of CSA is that all the food is grown right here, thereby relieving us New Englanders of a bit of our dependence on the factory farms of California, the transportation system, and the exploitation of workers and non-renewable resources on which they are based.

Indian Line Farm is now fully involved in helping communities all over the world set up CSA programs. While it is producing new programs, it will not be able to produce vegetables. A number of people in town, who have enjoyed the experience of involvement in a CSA project, would like to bridge the gap with a program here in Monterey.

There are, of course, a lot of questions to be answered: Where will the garden be? Who should be responsible for it? What will be grown? Who will pull the weeds and pick off the Japanese beetles? We have the help of Indian Line Farm in dealing with these and other issues. And we have Monterey, a town well known for its community spirit and social conscience.

The first question to answer is this: Who would be interested in membership in a Monterey Community Farm? For those of you who are wondering, your interest carries with it no responsibility. Members need not work in the fields, or in any other capacity. If you are interested in nothing other than getting a bag of home-grown vegetables every week without raising your own garden, you are interested in a CSA.

Just to give us an idea of the extent of the interest in Monterey, please contact Joel Schick, PO Box 101, Monterey; 528-3128.

HOLIDAY SEASON EVENTS

Piano Recital
On Sunday, December 9, at 3:00 p.m., the piano students of Katherine Reis will give a recital at the Monterey United Church of Christ. The event is free and open to the public.

Open House
The Bidwell House cordially invites one and all to a Holiday Season Open House. Come and enjoy a winter interlude with refreshments and simple holiday decorations in a setting from Monterey's past. The festivities will take place at the Bidwell House on Art School Road, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Sunday, December 16.

A Christmas Carol
The whole family will enjoy the Berkshire Public Theatre's traditional offering of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol.* This year's production runs December 6-23 at the Theatre in Pittsfield. Call the box office at 445-4634 for ticket information.

Second Annual Winter Solstice Concert
An evening of musical celebration will once again highlight Monterey's holiday season. Sponsored by the Arts Lottery Council and the church, this concert promises to be even better than last year's.

Folk singer Debbie Friedlander will start off the evening with her family-oriented offering. Monterey's own storyteller, MaryKate Jordan, will entertain young and old alike as she shares a holiday story. Back by popular demand is Critical Theory with their innovative style of world music jazz.

The date is Friday evening, December 28, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are only $5.00 for adults. Children are free! So mark the date on your calendar and come to a musical feast welcoming winter, Hanukkah, Christmas and the New Year.

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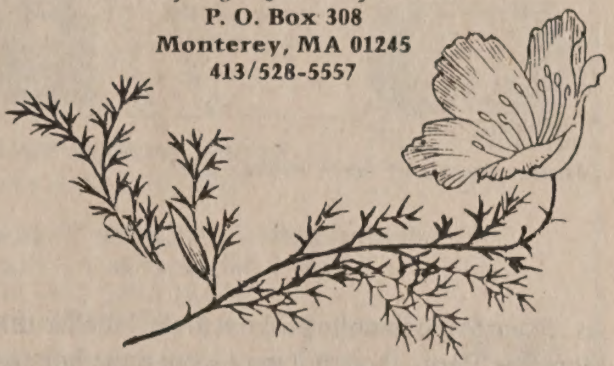

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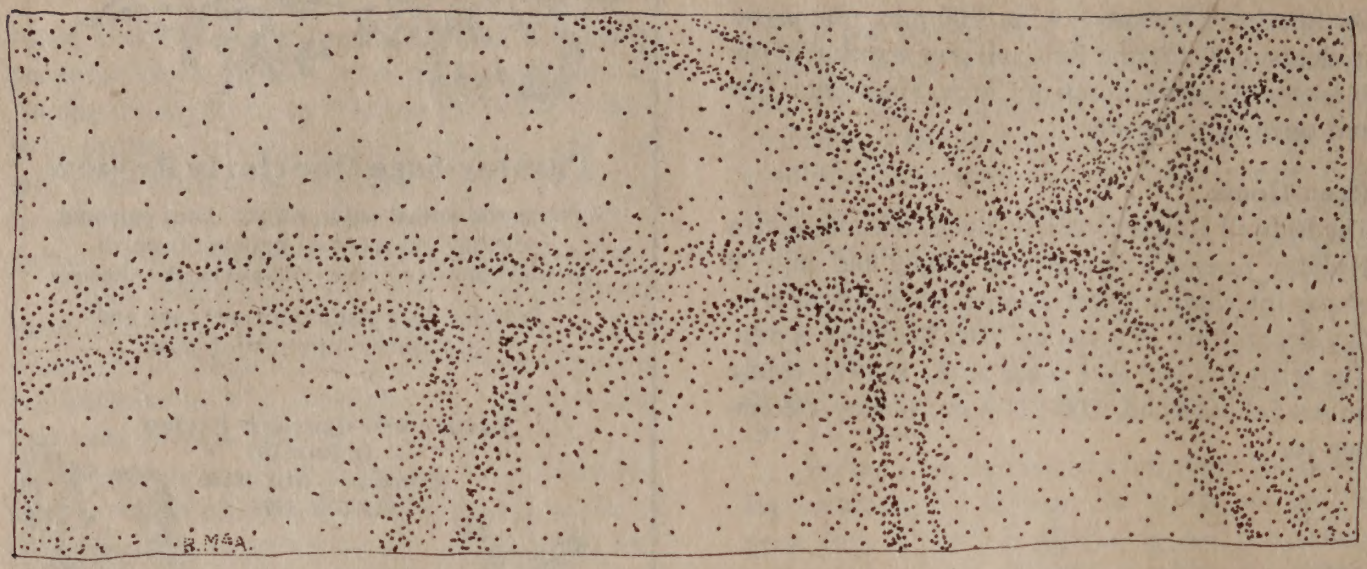

Moles: Agents of berm subversion?

As I listen to the rumblings about town, I realize that the Monterey Berm, though it may seem quite homogeneous and immutable, is in fact a changeable affair which is different things to different people.

To some it represents one man's statement of his right to privacy, his right to build a long pile of dirt on his property if he wants to. To others it is an affront, a careless or ungenerous robbing of another's daily sunset view. To some people, this boring green dike even represents the classic imbalance of the populations of the hilltowns. Someone who is well-off can own property, a lovely house and many acres of land. He can come here for a visit, to relax, to spend parts of the summers and weekends. And whether he is here or whether he is gone, he can block the view that was once enjoyed by hundreds of residents, people whose drive to town each day was brightened and beautified by a glorious view off to the southwest, one of only a few such long-distance views around town.

The fact is, the berm is there, and it's not going to disappear. There have been some rural guerilla schemes whispered about the hay mows, but let's face it, those moles we've been training are not likely to work for us once we release them by the berm. It's too new. There's nothing living in there for them to eat, so why should they tunnel it to bits? And the glacier we have been building in our chest freezers isn't likely to work, either. We'll all come down to the berm at the witching hour with our glacier sections, fit them together, and then get another week of Indian summer. The Ice Age of 1990 will do little more than water the grass and maybe drown a few moles.

The challenge we all face now is how to live with the berm. I guess the truly transcendental among us have already stopped noticing it, either through basic mental discipline or by finding another route to town. Then there's the Perspective Approach, or, "It could have been a lot worse!" This is true, of course, and it's a good thing to remember that if one's worst headache is a green grassy slope along the highway then one hasn't been paying enough attention to World Affairs or even the price of gasoline lately.

For those unable to make these mental shiftings (people who would say they don't want to "play such games"), there are a couple of other possibilities, ones which involve Actions, as we say. There are some people who would rather do an Action than create an attitude. For them we have the Berm View Mural Committee and Sewing Circle. We've been stitching together bedsheets and collecting memories of the view we all loved. Once we get a cohesive image, we'll start painting and then pin the thing up along the highway in front of the berm. So far, though, it's amazing how people's impressions have differed. Some people say that it's raining out in that view. Some say it's snowing. Some say it is too foggy to see a thing, and still others recall a glorious sunset. The Mural Committee is, at this point, a little divided about

the painting, so we are just stitching more sheets. (At least we are *doing* something!)

The most promising Action, though, is the Motorist Elevation Plan. You can't see over the berm? Simple: get higher. There are many ways to do this, providing opportunity for individual tailoring and expression. Some people will want to build up the chassis of their automobile, kind of like getting the thing up on stilts. Some will undoubtedly cut out a sunroof and install extensions on seats, steering wheel and controls. Personally, I favor the Basic Elevation Plan, which involves many baskets of dirt and a gradual raising of the roadbed.

Of course everyone participating in the Elevation Plan has promised to respect the privacy of the property owner. In fact, so as to be fair, we are respecting *everyone's* privacy from now on and not peeking at the houses along either side of Route 23 anywhere in town. We promise! We will not peek, so please don't think you need to build more berms. I have taken my last look at the Gero horses, much as I love them. There will be no more foreground peeking, only long-distance viewing. Like the song says, most things (except maybe those horses) look better that way anyhow.

—Bonner J. McAllester

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THE DOVE

Peace came
And a bird, an ornament on the tree
Flashed into sudden brilliance
Like a sign.
Then a crackling from the logs that fell apart
Darkness again
Peace creeping into all the corners of the mind.

Old words, old notions
Slipping into place once more
Flickering and fragmentary
Spark now to spark
Entered the room like fireflies of the wood
While the glowing embers
Grew a greyer tinge
Reaching to find their buried shag-bark ends.

Thoughts try for ultimate conclusions
Given their chance
Doing so watchfully, half-lights grown pale
As pleasures smooth the creases in care's gown
If care sit on the hearthstone stool for long.

Peace came
And now—only the burned-out log
A tissue on an orange nest
The embers fall
Their fragments crumble mute
Leaving one flat white piece
Shaped like a dove.

— Sue Moody

MOOSE MAPLE

For striped maples the autumn-time
Is a luminous, leafy paradigm,
A yellow and golden conjugation,
A tranced declension of transmutation.

The woods are otherwise somber, stark,
Stripped right down to insensate bark,
But the maples are having a holiday lark
With their foliate glow in the heavy dark.

Each leaf is a lambent proclamation:
"Death is merely an adumbration
Of life to come, it is thus condign
To fly from the twig in autumn-time!"

— David P. McAllester

SNOWBIRDS

When the heavy snow is falling
and there is silence all around,
And you are there in the snowstorm
your only vision is the ground.

You are lost in the swirling whiteness,
and you feel so all alone,
Not a thing there to guide you
no fence post, tree, or stone.

Then, out of the ghostly heavens
you hear a peeping sound
Then you see the darker snow flakes,
the little snowbirds all around.

— Sheldon Fenn
(from *Woodburn Farm*)

THUMBNAILS & TEETH

Of the things which plague this earth
Destroy the joy of Christmas mirth
One which is the greatest bane
An item sealed in cellophane!

— E. L. W.

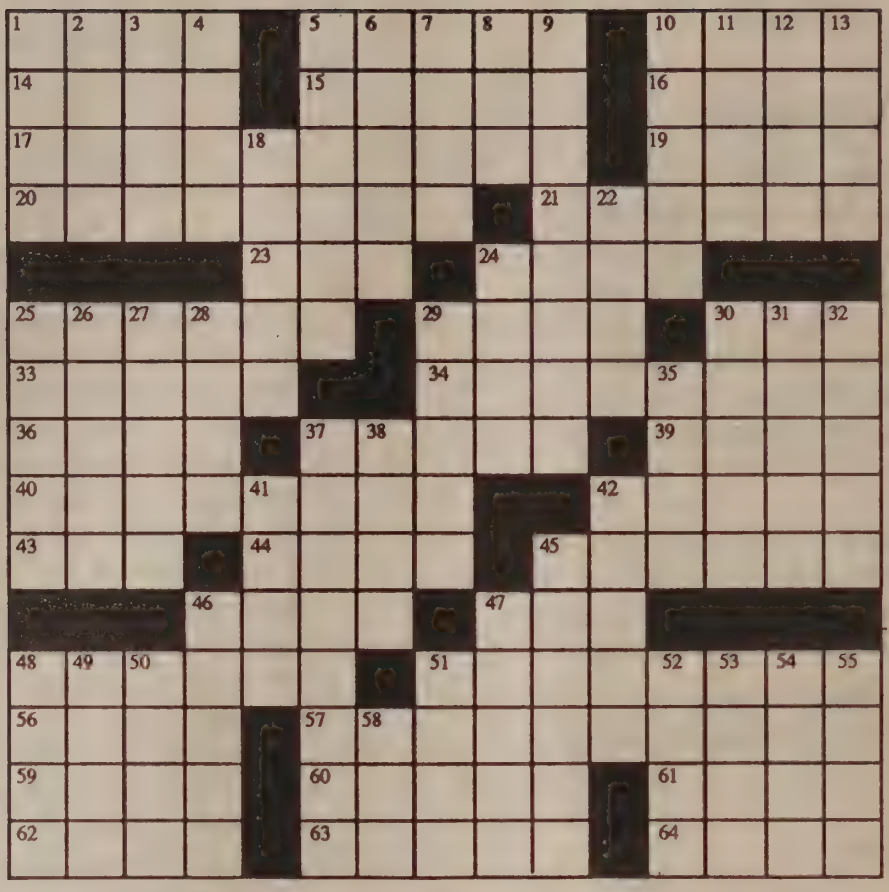
REMINISCING

What this generation misses
And perhaps will never know
Is the cheery sound of sleigh bells
Ringing out across the snow;
The neighbors in for Christmas,
Real candles on the tree
Decked out with strings of popcorn,
A pretty sight to see.
Gilded English walnut shells
And chains of paper rings,
Little cut-out angels
And other homemade things.
The true spirit of Christmas
Was with us way back then.
In dreams I go back
To those good old days
And live them over again.

— Eleanor Kimberley

DOUBLE TALK

By Ted Tchack



ACROSS

1 Music great
5 Block again
10 Bit of wood
14 Wind instrument
15 Gladden
16 Sled
17 CITY CITY
19 God of Love
20 Relatives
21 "What news on the___?"
23 Fort ___, CA
24 Boast of triumph
25 Protect
29 African city
30 ____ a plea
33 Like an old woman
34 ISLAND ISLAND
36 Tatters
37 Light-colored
39 Norse name
40 Tenuous
42 Novelist
43 Match part
44 Is wrong
45 Circular
46 Expended
47 Sty
48 Illinois city
51 SKIRT SKIRT
56 Always
57 Administrators
59 Confront
60 French name
61 "____ and Lovers"
62 Lodges
63 Forewords (abbr.)
64 Jacob, e.g.

DOWN

1 Arches
2 "Like ___out of Hell"
3 Nat or Natalie
4 Aid
5 Express differently
6 Antelope
7 French dances
8 Ocean (abbr.)
9 Astern
10 Dirt-free
11 Toss
12 "__rhythm"
13 Mexican coin
18 Unified
22 Hebrides island
24 Mangle
25 Ventures
26 Related on mother's side
27 Scrap
28 Otherwise
29 Coins on 30 down
30 Greek isle
31 Heavenly hunter
32 Stepped off
35 Vegetable
37 DISEASE DISEASE
38 Fat
41 Actual
42 Mr. Chips
45 Skits and songs
46 Leaves
47 Trotter
48 ___-tasse
49 Tied
50 Sharp
51 Fast time
52 Tilt
53 Admit
54 Start of Caesar's boast
55 Org.
58 Prefix for alien

Answers on page 17

WHO'S WHO IN MONTEREY

The Balches, Racquel and Captain Midnight

It all began in 1979 in Rockland County, New York, when a friend presented Sheila and David Balch with an orphaned baby raccoon. They named her Racquel and she moved into their lives, their house and their bed for nine wonderful and traumatic years. She was highly intelligent, completely lovable, extremely inquisitive, and she became very strong. She was a gently playful clown, but she also ripped the heater from its moorings, and the plumbing froze. David carried water from the neighbors in two large pails, and Racquel tipped one of them over, creating a good- sized flood. She became the center of a thirty-six hour day; she would sometimes listen to reason, but you had to be there at the right moment to present it to her.

The Balches' son Eric, since he was raccoon-sitting, couldn't attend his brother Marc's wedding, a widely noted ski event on the top of Alta Mountain in Utah. When Sheila judged a dog show in Madrid, with expenses paid for two, David had to stay home. "We never went out to dinner or to the movies. We knew Racquel would be miserable if she woke up and found us gone; in her anxiety she might tear the place apart."

"We gradually got her turned around from being a nocturnal creature to sleeping more or less when we did. But if we were watching TV after her bedtime, she would come for us, saying, 'Brrrr! Brrrr!' If we didn't pay attention right away, she would go into the kitchen and start pulling things off the shelves, crash, bang! By the time she was a year old, she could control the volume on the TV and either turn it off or blast us out of the room. It was like having a hyperactive child on cocaine."

The situation got simultaneously more interesting and more complicated. Seven years ago the first Captain Midnight arrived in the Balches' back yard. David was going out in the evening to feed the dogs, heard a scrabbling sound, and looked up at a wild raccoon on the long horizontal pipe where the bird feeders and the hanging plants are suspended. When Sheila came out to see, the raccoon scrambled up one of the trees that support the pipe. Sheila then got some of Racquel's favorite cookies and crackers and, sitting quietly on the ground, gradually lured the newcomer down from the tree. This was exciting, to meet a wild "relative" of their orphaned pet! In two hours of sweet-talking and judicious cookie-tossing, she brought him closer and closer until he finally came right up trustfully and patted her. "It was the greatest experience of my life!"

Captain Midnight disappeared when the cold weather came, but he was back again next spring, bigger and somewhat more wary. Usually, each year it is a new Captain Midnight, always a young male, who gets this tame. Increasingly, other raccoons have been coming, too: singles, couples, mothers with their young ones. Other animals have joined them. "We might have a possum, a couple of skunks, innumerable chipmunks and deermice, and as many as twenty-five or thirty raccoons in a single night. It's the Peaceable Kingdom

all over again, to see them sharing the food and getting along together."

David is a retired civil engineer who has time to pick up after beloved pets and feed a host of visitors. Sheila is a dog-show judge in international demand and a breeder of prize-winning Malamutes. "But we're phasing out of Malamutes and into raccoons." Their remaining dog, Unit, was a top winner in America, and his father, Lucifer, was immortalized on a U.S. postage stamp. Sheila will judge at the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show next February at Madison Square Garden. But on such trips her thoughts are back in Monterey with the winged day visitors and the four-footed night visitors.

The Balches get help from interested friends with all the food they dispense. Their house is stacked with discarded bread from a store in Westfield and with sacks of birdseed and dog food from another friend in the pet food business. In return for collecting and distributing this bounty, they see a constant display of wildlife, old friends easily identified by appearance and personality and new ones who soon become equally well-known. It is an ever-changing scene of adjustment and accomodation, a never-ending seminar on the behavior of animals. Only the Balches call them "people." "Look, quick, there's somebody out there!" they say.

The mother raccoons will come and sit in Sheila's lap, but their babies don't dare to be so bold. Captain Midnight will come into the house and will delicately take a pecan held between Sheila's lips or gently loosen her fingers curled around a tidbit he wants. Once a possum denied access to the food dish to that year's Captain Midnight. The raccoon contemplated the long rows of teeth, then turned his broad impervious back and rolled into the dish. Once installed, he ate his fill, then departed with dignity, leaving the possum in possession the rest of the night.

All over the house are the Balches' collections of raccoon dolls, figurines, pillows, bookmarks, carvings, toys, drawings and sculptures (some of them by David), photographs, postcards and miniatures. There are boxes more in the cellar. They have Monterey's only raccoon-decorated bathroom and the world's largest collection of raccoon refrigerator-door magnets. For some years Montereyans have enjoyed David's raccoon cartoons in the *News*.

The new wave of sympathy for a nature ethic and animal rights is no news to the Balches. They have rescued distressed birds and animals for years. In spite of the joys they had with Racquel in the family, they have this warning for anyone who might be tempted to try it: it takes professional training to properly care for and rehabilitate wild creatures. They, themselves, rely on Lifeline for Wildlife, 130 Blanchard Road, Stony Point, New York, an organization with a twenty-four hour hot line: (914) 429-0180. Two other organizations are The Worcester Science Center, 222 Harrington Way, Worcester, Massachusetts, 01604, (508) 791-9211, and The Franciscan Fathers in Cummington, (413) 634-2127. These friends of wildlife, like the Balches, act out of their kinship with all life. It may be the most important lesson we can learn at this moment on Planet Earth.

— David P. McAllester

COONJURER

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE 9

B	A	C	H	■	R	E	B	A	R	■	C	H	I	P
O	B	O	E	■	E	L	A	T	E	■	L	U	G	E
W	A	L	L	A	W	A	L	L	A	■	E	R	O	S
S	T	E	P	S	O	N	S	■	R	I	A	L	T	O
■	■	■	■	O	R	D	■	I	W	O	N	■	■	■
D	E	F	E	N	D	■	O	R	A	N	■	C	O	P
A	N	I	L	E	■	■	B	O	R	A	B	O	R	A
R	A	G	S	■	B	L	O	N	D	■	E	R	I	C
E	T	H	E	R	E	A	L	■	■	D	E	F	O	E
S	E	T	■	E	R	R	S	■	R	O	T	U	N	D
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E	V	E	R	■	E	X	E	C	U	T	I	V	E	S
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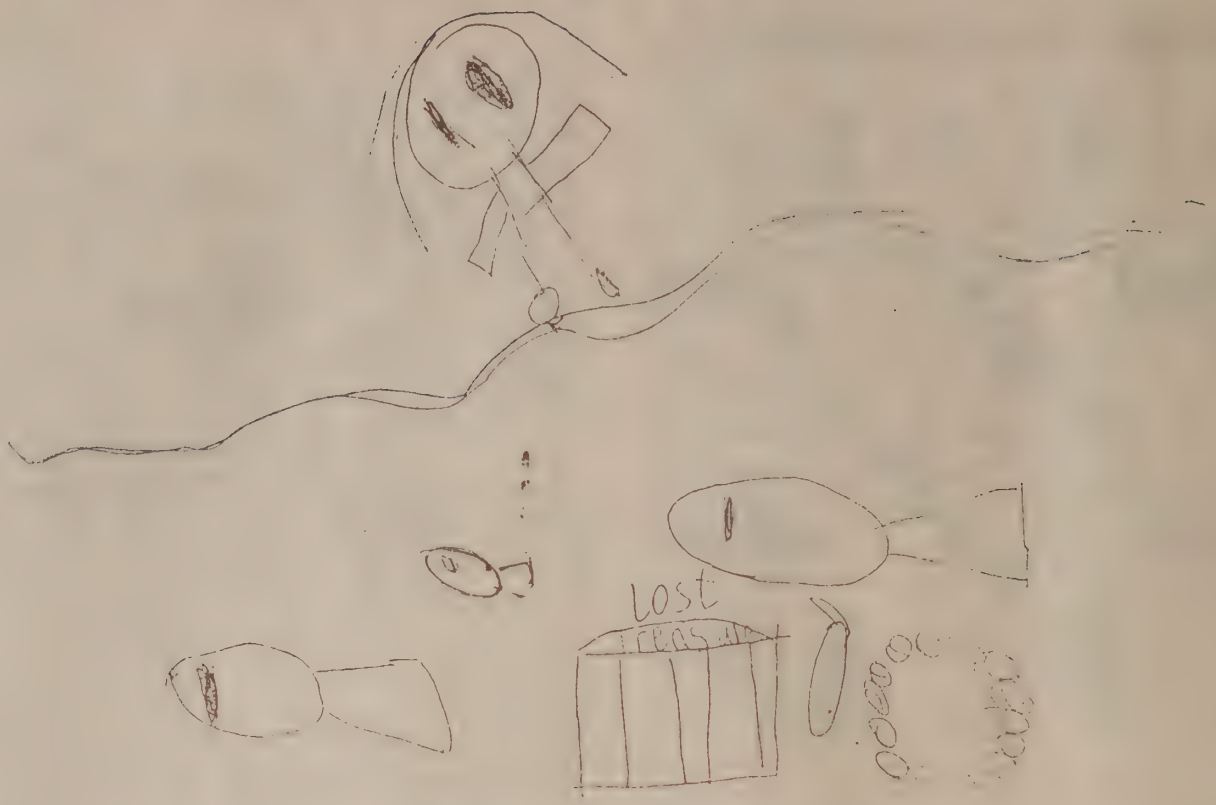

Meredith Friedman drew a happy summer memory—a pirate treasure hunt at Lake Garfield.

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SVERRE H. GRINDE

Sverre H. Grinde, 79, of 25 Welcome Street, Great Barrington, died on October 30 at Fairview Hospital.

He was born in Haugesund, Norway, on April 30, 1911, the son of Truls Olai Grinde and Sofie Grinde, and attended public schools in Haugesund.

Mr. Grinde emigrated to the United States in 1930 and lived in Minnesota for about one year. After that he moved to Brooklyn, New York, and worked for the Richard Lankenau family at their textile mill and part-time at their estate in Monterey. In 1932, he moved permanently to Monterey and continued to work for the Lankenau family until 1960.

From 1942 to 1945 he took a leave of absence and moved to Annapolis, Maryland, to work on the manufacture of PT boats at the Annapolis Yacht Yard.

Starting in 1960 and continuing for 13 years, he was a caretaker for Eugene Ormandy in Monterey. He retired in 1973.

He was a member of the Sons of Norway Lodge 474 in Hartford, Connecticut.

He leaves his wife of 51 years, the former Louise Kotleski, whom he married November 14, 1938; a son, Eric Grinde of Montpelier, Vermont, a daughter, Mrs. Trudy Lorance of Lee; a brother, Magne Grinde of Miami, Florida; a sister, Mrs. Jenny Blixhaun of Haugesund, and seven grandchildren.

CARL J. BYNACK

Carl J. Bynack, 57, of Route 57, Hartsville, died on November 13 at his other home on Eaton Road, Monterey, of injuries suffered in a fall.

Born January 15, 1933, in New Marlboro, son of Henry and Elizabeth Wilkinson Bynack, he graduated from the former New Marlboro High School.

He served with the Navy in the Pacific from 1952 to 1956.

Mr. Bynack was a self-employed general contractor and carpenter. He was a life member of the National Rifle Association.

He leaves a son, Jeffrey C. Bynack of Monterey; a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Barry of Watertown; a brother, Earl H. Bynack of Somersville, Connecticut; and a sister, Mrs. Gwen West of New Marlboro.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The November issue of the *Monterey News* is the best one of the new era. There are so many enlivening new features: Ted Tchack's crossword puzzle, first-time photos from Emily Olds, David McAllester's vision of a volcano. And with the backbones of the paper firmly in place: good reporting, columns, poems, pictures.

It's all set out, trim and true, in Alice Schick's new format. The town is fortunate to have such people who keep the *News* coming each month.

— Susan McAllester

To the Editor:

Mr. Winfield Odgen has taught the good people of Monterey an important lesson: Beware the man whose power of money is not fettered by common decency. This is the same lesson the good people of the United States learned from the likes of Charles Keating and Michael Milken. The lesson of the 'Eighties.

And perhaps Mr. Ogden's weaselly reconstruction of his berm just off Town property can be viewed as the last great crummy act of that decade. Not so much a Last Hurrah as a Last Raspberry.

To me, the berm will always stand as a monument—an expression of single-minded selfishness, eloquent in its stark simplicity. It stands also as a memorial to the Lost Innocence of us country bumpkins who have stumbled blithely along, trusting in the goodwill and decency of others.

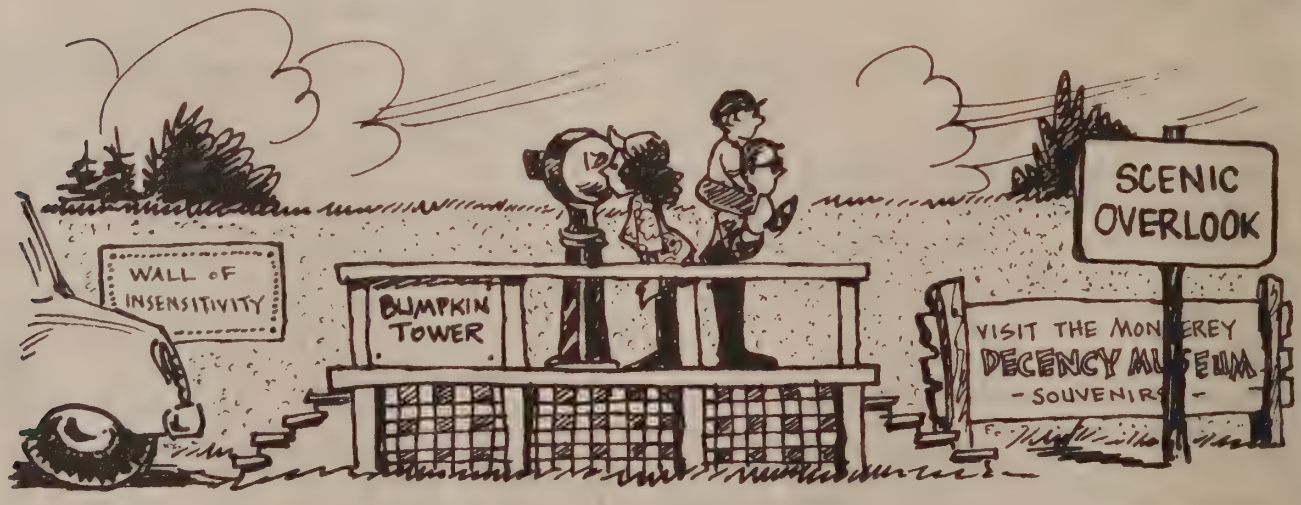
Of course, it also stands as a solid wall against a particularly beautiful view. Speaking selfishly, I miss that view. It didn't belong to me (how can nature belong to anyone?); I hadn't paid for it; I had not bought a right to deny it to others. I just loved it; I drew sustenance from it. And I miss it.

All of which brings me to my plan: I propose that the Town of Monterey erect a Memorial to Lost Innocence directly in front of the famous berm. The Memorial would take the form of a raised platform (we have just the thing weathering away at the Dump), so that passers-by could stop and climb above the bermline and view once again the lovely landscape beyond. Perhaps we could get one of those coin-operated telescopes you see at other tourist attractions, and mount it on the platform.

We could even ask Mr. Ogden to mount a tasteful plaque on his berm, identifying it as the Monument to Everlasting Selfishness. Or the Great Wall of Insensitivity. This would give Monterey an exclusive—Dueling Monuments, their juxtaposition itself standing as testimony to the struggle between Self and Community.

As to that struggle, beware: He who has the most money and the least conscience wins.

— Joel Schick



- ARTIST'S CONCEPTION -

PETS ON OTHER PLANETS

III

SECOND CLASS UPDATE

We've gone over the 200 mark in responses. If you haven't sent in yours, please make a Holiday Season Resolution to do so before the year's end.

SEND IN THE COUPON TODAY!

December 1, 1990

Please send me the *Monterey News* every month.

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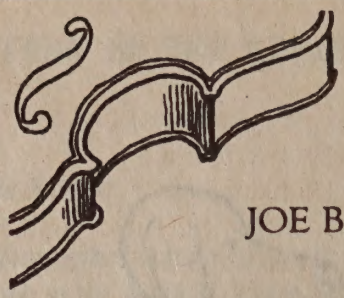

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PERSONAL NOTES

Let's hear it for John Owen! Mostly through John's efforts, 100 elm seedlings have been purchased by the Town from the Elm Research Institute in New Hampshire. After 22 years of research, these elms have proven to be 90% disease free. The seedlings are now planted on Gould Farm property where John painstakingly prepared the soil and readied everything. Next fall John intends to transplant every other seedling to give them more room to grow, and by the second year the trees should be three to five feet tall. At that time, on the advice of the Selectmen and the Tree Warden, the trees could be planted on Town property, many probably where elms past once graced the town. Hats off to Wayne Burkhart and Gould Farm for the use of their land and water, and to seven-year-old Nicholas Halley, who heroically helped John get the seedlings planted. And, of course, our thanks to John himself, who, through the sweat of his own brow, is providing lots of nurturing and TLC so that hopefully we might all enjoy the beauty of elms in Monterey one day soon.

More Monterey babies! Our congratulations to **Steve** and **Debbie Reddy**, whose healthy son, **Albert Jackson**, was born at home on Hupi Road on October 27. The birth was assisted by Berkshire Birthways.

And congratulations also to **David** and **Veronika Markwood**, whose son, **Jacob Matthew**, was born at home on Gould Road on November 4. Jacob weighed in at a robust 8 lbs. 1 oz. Best wishes also to grandparents **Kent** and **Nancy Smith** of Gould Farm.

Very Happy Birthday wishes to **Nicholas Halley** on November 28, to **Stefan Grotz** on December 1, to **Matthew Gloyd O'Connell** on December 2, to **Elizabeth Deloy** on December 5, to **Natasha Grotz** on December 12, and to **Hedy Craven** and **Donald Amstead**, both on Christmas Day.

And I wish all of you a very joyous holiday season. Thanks so much for your help and contributions throughout the year. Please keep them coming in 1991! Just jot your news items down and drop them at the General Store or in the mail to me, just Route 23, or give me a call at 528-4519. Thanks again.

— Stephanie Grotz

CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank the following readers who have sent in contributions during the past month:

Georgiana O'Connell
John & Elsie Bachman
Peter & Karla Alfano
Arthur & Joan Wing
M/M William Zad
Ray & Tolitha Butler
Arnold & Janet Garber
Stanley & Marilyn Rossier

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CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 4—Prayer breakfast at the Howell/Andersen home. 7:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 8—Square and Contra Dance, New England-style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is open to anyone. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by caller Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, $4; children, $1 to dance until intermission. Information: (413) 528-9385.

Sunday, December 9—Piano recital given by students of Katherine Reis. 3:00 p.m. at the church.

Wednesday, December 12—Community Dinner. 6:30 p.m. in the church basement. Karl Finger will lead a sing-along.

Thursday, December 13—Friends of Silence meditation at the Howell/Andersen home. 7:30 a.m.

Sunday, December 16—Holiday Open House. 2:00-5:00 p.m. at The Bidwell House.

Friday, December 28—Second Annual Winter Solstice Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the church.

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Three-inch ad (3″ x 3″)	7.50
Four-inch ad (4⅛″ x 3″)	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 15th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

SEND IN YOUR NEWS STORIES

Readers sometimes call to ask whether we are going to cover a particular event, or, worse, to complain that we haven't covered an event already past. The *Monterey News* is essentially a volunteer operation, and we cannot assign reporters or photographers to appear at an event they don't plan to attend on their own. However, we would like to report on as many town happenings as possible. To that end, we encourage everyone to send in accounts and/or photos of celebrations, seminars, etc. they have attended. Even if you find writing difficult, don't hestitate—one of the editor's jobs is polishing your prose. Your efforts will be much appreciated by other readers. And if you do send in an article, please include your name and telephone number in case we have questions.

Editor	Alice Schick
Reporters	Maggie Leonard David P. McAllester Ellen K. Pearson
Poetry Editor	David P. McAllester
Personal Notes Editor	Stephanie Grotz
Business Manager	Barbara Gauthier
Typesetters	Pat Amstead Eileen Clawson Ted Tchack
Circulation Manager	Stella Bodnar
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